Disposal of Vehicles in Indian Missions

4155. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed any period for disposing the vehicles in the Indian Missions abroad; and

(b) if so, the details of the norms and the vehicles disposed in Indian Missions during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The purchase of vehicles in Indian Missions/Posts is governed by the Car Code laid down by the Ministry of External Affairs. Under the terms of this Car Code, Heads of Missions/Posts are empowered to authorise replacement of a car subject to availability of funds after it has covered 75,000 kms or it has been in use for three years, whichever is later. The old car is disposed off to the best advantage of Government as per the laid down procedure. In case of vehicles other than cars, they can be replaced only with the approval of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) Replacement of a car can be authorised by the Head of Mission on completion of the period of three years or 75,000 kms whichever is later. For disposal of the old car, a three member committee consisting of the Head of Mission, Head of Chancery and one more officer from the Mission is constituted and bids are invited through advertisements in local newspapers and by circulating the relevant information among the resident diplomatic missions. The bids so received are opened in presence of all committee members on a fixed date at a fixed time and the vehicle is sold to the highest bidder among the available offers received. The sale proceeds of the vehicle are to be deposited in the government account immediately.

During the last three years, a total of 218 vehicles have been disposed off as per the laid down procedures by Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

Indian symbol on display in UNO Office

4156. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the symbols of all the nations are on display in UNO office at New York;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during Nehru's time some carpets were sent for display in that office which were lying in the stores and no Indian symbol was on display in 1978;

(c) whether Government had sent or propose to send any Indian symbol for display like other nations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Flags of all the 188 Member States of the United Nations are hoisted in the premises of the United Nations.

(b) The carpet which former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru presented to the United Nations on August 29, 1967 is currently on display in the 38th floor of the United Nations—the floor exclusively devoted to the Office of the Secretary General.

(c) to (e) Former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi presented on July 26, 1982, a black stone sculpture of Sun God (Surya). This item is on display at the entrance to the Delegates Lounge in the United Nations which is one of the most prominent areas in the UN Building.

Highlights of G-77 Summit

4157. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

SHRI GAYA SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the highlights of the recently held G-77 Summit at Havana; and

(b) what is the outcome of the Summit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The Group of 77 (G-77) South Summit of developing countries was held in Havana, Cuba from 10—14 April, 2000. The Summit adopted three documents viz., the Declaration, the Havana Programme of Action, and a paper on South-South Cooperation.

(b) The Summit emphasized that in all their endeavours, developing countries would be guided by the principles and purposes of the United Nations